AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:

memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

a face detector configured to analyze said digital data and to automatically identify facial data within said digital data stored in said memory; and

an image enhancer configured to search said identified facial data for a particular facial feature and to automatically ~~identify~~ locate a facial blemish defined by a portion of said facial data based on a proximity of said facial blemish relative to said facial feature within said graphical image, said image enhancer further configured to automatically compensate for said facial blemish by automatically manipulating said portion such that an appearance of said facial ~~feature~~ blemish is enhanced within said graphical image, wherein said image enhancer is configured to initiate, without user intervention, manipulation of said portion for enhancing said appearance in response to ~~identification~~ location of said facial blemish by said image enhancer.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said system further comprises an input device configured to receive an input indicative of a facial blemish type, and wherein said location of said facial blemish by said image enhancer is ~~further configured to select said facial blemish~~ based on said input.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer manipulates said portion by blending color values associated with said portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, blurs said appearance of said facial blemish.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, sharpens said appearance of said facial blemish.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, changes a color of said facial blemish.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes an image capturing device configured to receive an image of a scene and to produce said digital data based on said image received by said image capturing device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said image capturing device includes a lens for receiving said image and an image converter for producing said digital data based on said image.

9. (Currently Amended) An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:

means for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

face detecting means for analyzing said digital data and for automatically identifying facial data within said digital data stored in said storing means; and

image enhancing means for searching said identified facial data for a particular facial feature and for automatically ~~identifying~~ locating a facial blemish defined by a portion of said facial data based on a proximity of said facial blemish relative to said facial feature within said graphical image, the image enhancing means configured to automatically manipulate, upon ~~identification of~~ locating said facial blemish ~~by said image enhancing means~~, said portion to enhance an appearance of said facial blemish within said graphical image.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing graphical images, comprising:

receiving digital data defining a graphical image;

automatically detecting facial data within said digital data;

searching said facial data for data that defines a particular facial feature;

automatically ~~identifying~~ locating a facial blemish defined by a set of said digital data based on a proximity of said facial blemish relative to said particular facial feature within said graphical image; and

automatically compensating for said facial blemish in response to said ~~identifying~~ locating without user intervention, said compensating comprising manipulating said set of digital data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating includes blending color values within said set of digital data.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving an input; and

selecting [[~~said~~]] a facial blemish type based on said input,

wherein said searching is based on said selecting.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating causes a blurring of an appearance of said facial blemish when said facial blemish is displayed.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating causes a sharpening of an appearance of said facial blemish when said facial blemish is displayed.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating affects a color of said facial blemish when said facial blemish is displayed.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

capturing an image of a scene; and

defining said digital data based on said capturing.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said capturing includes:

receiving light via a lens; and

converting said light into said digital data received in said receiving.

18. (Previously Presented) An automatic image enhancing system, comprising:

memory configured to store digital data representative of a graphical image;

a face detector configured to automatically identify facial data in said digital data; and

an image enhancer configured to automatically locate a portion of said facial data defining a skin blemish and to locate at least one additional facial feature, wherein said image enhancer is configured to locate said portion of said facial data defining said skin blemish by determining the likely proximity of said skin blemish to said located at least one additional facial feature, and wherein said image enhancer is further configured to automatically manipulate, upon locating said portion, said portion for enhancing an appearance of said skin blemish within said graphical image.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[~~19~~]] 18, wherein said blemish is a wrinkle.

21. (Currently Amended) An automatic image enhancing method, comprising:

storing digital data representative of a graphical image;

automatically identifying facial data in said digital data;

automatically locating a portion of said facial data defining a skin blemish; and

manipulating said portion for enhancing an appearance of said blemish within said graphical image, wherein said manipulating is automatically initiated based on said locating,

wherein the locating further comprises locating a facial feature within said facial data and determining the likely proximity of said blemish to said ~~additional~~ facial feature.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical image contains a plurality of faces, and wherein said face detector is configured to automatically detect each of said faces and said image enhancer is configured to automatically enhance each of said detected faces.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said graphical image contains a plurality of faces, wherein said face detecting means is configured to automatically detect each of said faces, and wherein said image enhancing means is configured to automatically enhance each of said detected faces.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said graphical image comprises a plurality of faces, wherein said detecting comprises detecting each of said faces, and wherein said method comprises enhancing each of said faces based on said manipulating.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein said face detector is configured to identify a plurality of faces in said graphical image, and wherein said image enhancer is configured to automatically enhance each of said detected faces.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying comprises identifying a plurality of faces in said graphical image, and wherein said method comprises automatically enhancing each of said faces based on said manipulating.

28. (Currently Amended) An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:

memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image, said graphical image containing a plurality of faces;

a face detector configured to detect each of said faces; and

an image enhancer configured to analyze said faces, said image enhancer further configured to automatically detect and enhance at least one respective facial ~~feature~~ blemish in each of said faces, wherein the image enhancer is configured to detect each said facial blemish by searching a respective one of said detected faces for a particular facial feature and determining the likely proximity of the facial blemish relative to the particular facial feature.

29. (Currently Amended) An automatic image enhancing method, comprising:

storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

automatically detecting a plurality of faces in said graphical image;

automatically analyzing said faces to detect at least one respective facial ~~feature~~ blemish in each of said faces; and

automatically enhancing, based on said analyzing, at least one respective facial ~~feature~~ blemish detected in each of said faces,

wherein said analyzing comprises, for each of said faces:

searching the respective face for a particular facial feature;

determining the likely proximity of a facial blemish to be enhanced relative to the particular facial feature; and

locating the facial blemish to be enhanced based on said determining.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said enhancing is initiated without user intervention ~~based on~~ in response to said analyzing.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said facial blemish is a wrinkle, and wherein said facial feature is an eye within said graphical image.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said facial feature is an eye within said graphical image.